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## VI. THE MOTOR MEMORY OF THE LEFT HAND

By LUCY ROWE and M. F. WASHBURN

The object of these experiments was to compare the ability to reproduce 'nonsense figures', by means of the left hand, with that shown by the right hand in similar tests. The method used was that employed by Binet to test motor memory, which may be found described on p. 397 of Titchener's *Instructor's Manual, Qualitative*. The observer's hand was guided by the experimenter along a nonsense figure of six lines, the eyes being closed. The figure was then reproduced from memory. In the course of the whole series of experiments, the same figures were used twice, once in testing the right hand and once in testing the left hand, but with a sufficient interval between, during which other figures were used, to prevent memory of the preceding test. The results were evaluated as follows. A line which was reproduced in the direction which it had in the copy was counted correct. Lines that were reversed, that is, directed to the left when they should have been to the right, were recorded under a separate heading, as were lines that were upside down. When the general direction, right, left, up or down, of a line was correct, but the angle made with the preceding line was too large or too small, the record was made under the head of "Error in angle". The results appear in the following table:

Obs.	RIGHT HAND.				LEFT HAND.			
	Correct.	Error in angle.	Rev.	U. d.	Correct.	Error in angle.	Rev.	U. d.
WO.	535	119	27	15	551	145	30	10
S.	322	14	21	6	349	15	47	4
H.	282	94	27	28	237	76	54	19
ST.	480	51	43		487		47	45
R.	173	14	36	8	181	19	17	12
L.	254	48	25	16	271	36	36	14
H.	414	106	31	10	465	77	41	19
P.	239	43	46	15	243	25	57	20

We had rather expected that the right hand would show superiority over the left hand in these tests. It will be seen from the table that in every case but that of observer H. the left hand gave a larger number of correctly reproduced lines. The introspection of our observers suggested a plausible explanation for this fact. We are so unaccustomed to performing accurate movements with the left hand that attention to its experiences in the giving of the copy is more strained and apparently more effective. The movements of the right hand, on the contrary, are more nearly automatic, and being less attended to are less accurately reproduced.

It might be expected also that the left hand would show a stronger tendency to reverse movements in reproducing them than the right hand. The figures show that this was the case with every one except observer R., though the difference between the hands was not very marked.

## VII. A STUDY IN GUESSING

By MARIE STROH, A. MARGARET SHAW, and M. F. WASHBURN

The experiments to be described were suggested by those of Sidis,